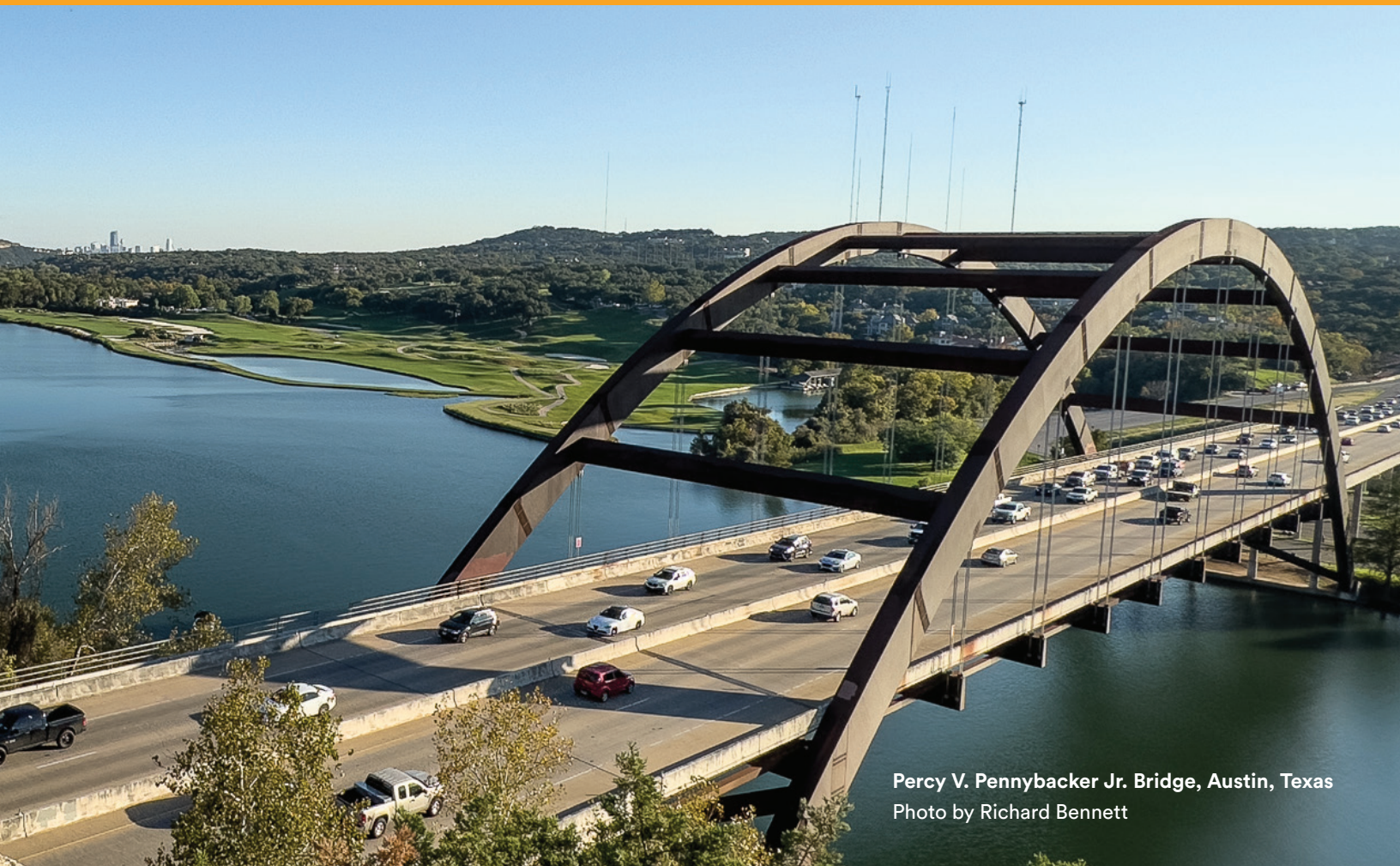


# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



Percy V. Pennybacker Jr. Bridge, Austin, Texas  
Photo by Richard Bennett

VOL. 19 NO. 3

JANUARY 21, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

One of our four core values at ABC is authenticity. 1 John 1:7 tells us, “if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.” I have found it is not uncommon for someone to come to church and look like they are walking in the light, but the reality is they are walking through a very dark season. Some have marriage issues, and their home lives are broken. Others are grieving the loss of a loved one. Many are struggling with work and searching for purpose in their lives. People walk through our doors carrying deep anxiety, depression, or fighting intrusive thoughts.

In my pastoral experience, I have found that healing comes by stepping into the light and allowing God to shine into those dark spaces. This is why we value authenticity at ABC, and it is why we are now launching the ABC Counseling Ministry. I have been praying for a few years on how we could offer on-site professional counseling to meet the growing emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of our community. I believe God has provided the right new member to help us launch this important ministry initiative.

Lindsey Werner and her family are newer members to ABC. She and her husband, Alex, serve faithfully on the worship team in our 11:15am service. Lindsey is a highly qualified LPC-S and has extensive experience in professional counseling. She formerly worked at Hill Country Bible Church, where she launched their counseling ministry and led a team of professional counselors at their church. She is also a great writer and teacher and has led seminars for our ABC Women’s Ministry.

Starting February 1st, Lindsey will begin taking counseling appointments right here at ABC during the week. If you or any of your loved ones have counseling needs, I would encourage you to set up an appointment. It’s always okay to not be okay; however, it is not okay to stay there. I believe God wants to bring healing to your life, and I pray the ABC Counseling Ministry will help you in that process. I’ll invite Lindsey on stage with me this weekend to introduce her and this new partnership to our church family. More information on how to book an appointment will be coming soon.

As a final note, I know we are all watching the weather forecast for this weekend closely. There is a strong chance for iced roads and hazardous driving conditions. We are monitoring the situation and will make a final decision on Saturday evening regarding our weekend in-person gatherings. Our preference is always to open the doors to our church. However, if the weather makes that unsafe for this coming Sunday, we will provide an online-only church service that day. I am planning to pre-record my sermon later this week, and we will broadcast an online worship service during our regularly scheduled worship times if necessary. For now we are full steam ahead with our regular schedule, but we will communicate on Saturday once a final decision is made.

Onward and Upward,

**DR. JONATHAN SPENCER**

**SENIOR PASTOR**







## CURRENT SERIES

### Foundations

A study in Genesis 1-3

### GOT GENESIS QUESTIONS?

Submit your questions for Citizen ATX Podcast by scanning or clicking the QR code! New episodes every Wednesday.



## DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19, 2025



**Harlan McMorris**

512-698-8616



**Robert Walters**

512-922-9368



# CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025



**Lindsey Chappell**



**Samantha Moore**



**Mary Ann Allen**

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Diana Kate King**

**Born:** December 30, 2025

**Proud Parents:** Corbin & Halle King

**Grandparents:** David and Kristen Hill

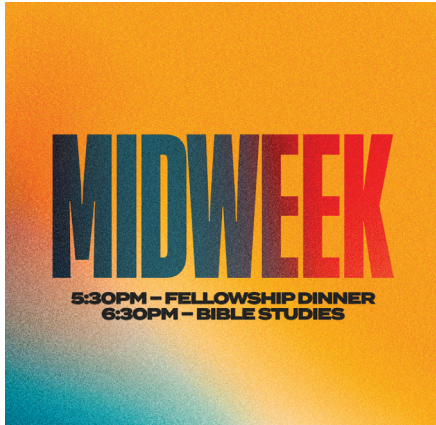
**Great-Grandparents:** Bill and Jo Hill

# UPCOMING EVENTS



For all event and weekly activity information, please visit  
[austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS)

# WEEKLY REMINDERS



## MIDWEEK MENU

**NEXT WEEK'S MENU**  
JANUARY 28

**COST:** \$10 per person;  
\$5 for kids' meal (12 & under)

Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes,  
green beans, bread roll, and salad bar

Please note that Midweek dinner is served in the Café.  
Seating for dinner is in the Great Hall until 6:30pm.





# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello!

If you can't already tell, I'm SO excited about our upcoming women's retreat, ***Made for Friendship***, and I don't want you to miss out! There is still room to join us for the No Overnight option, but registration closes this Thursday, January 22, so be sure to sign up soon! Please register [HERE](#).

To those of you who have already signed up—thank you! We're thrilled you'll be joining us. More details will be coming your way soon, but for now, here's a quick snapshot of the schedule:

- Friday check-in: begins at 4:00 pm
- Friday dinner: tentatively at 5:30 pm
- Saturday breakfast: tentatively at 7:30 am

To build a little more excitement, I want to share two things with you. First, our retreat theme, ***Made for Friendship***, will guide us as we explore friendship with God, obstacles to biblical friendship, and cultivating meaningful, Christ-centered friendships.

Second, I can't wait for you to learn more about our retreat speaker, Melanie Krumrey! She is a friend and truly has a gift, and I know you'll be encouraged and challenged by her teaching. I hope you'll consider joining us. It's going to be a beautiful and meaningful time together.

~Anita McGinnis



## GET TO KNOW OUR SPEAKER

# Melanie Krumrey

Melanie grew up in South Central Texas and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin, where she met her husband, Robert. Together they raised three children—now adults—and are grateful for a wonderful daughter-in-law and two absolutely delightful grandsons. Melanie teaches 7th grade English at Kealing Middle School and loves reading, writing, running, discovering cool cafés for good coffee, and practicing hospitality in all its forms.

Melanie and Robert spent 22 years in Amherst, Massachusetts, where Robert served as a church planter and pastor and where they raised their family. While she cherishes the beauty of New England's seasons, Melanie is happy to be back in the warm sunshine of her home state. She holds a master's degree in Christian Studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is nearing completion of a second master's degree in Theology, Ethics, and Culture. Melanie loves studying and teaching Scripture and delights in exploring God's Word alongside other women.



You are invited to attend (audit) one (or more) of the following mini-  
mester classes with Dallas Theological Seminary being hosted here at  
ABC this spring. **Contact Lisa Campbell at**  
**[lisac@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:lisac@austinbaptistchurch.com) if you are interested.**

**ST5102 TRINITARIANISM | JAN. 29-31 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)**

**DR. JOHN DYER**

A study of the existence and attributes of the one God, the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—in Scripture and in Christian history, and the ramifications of Trinitarian belief today.

**ST5106 ESCHATOLOGY | JAN. 29-30 (TH 8-5, FRI 8-5)**

**DR. GLENN KREIDER**

A study of eschatology, the doctrine of the consummation of God's plan of redemption, including major themes in eschatology and the order of predicted events. The course will include a review of the biblical creation and redemption narrative, with an opportunity for a synthetic capstone summary of Christian doctrine.

**BE5104 OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS | FEB. 5-7 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)**

**DR. CHARLES SAVELLE**

An exposition of the preexilic, exilic, and postexilic prophets (Isaiah through Malachi), excluding Jonah but including Lamentations, with emphasis on the biblical theology of these books, their genre, and application.

**EML5332 ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | FEB. 12-14 (TH 6-8:30, FRI 8-5, SAT 8-3)**

**DR. KEVIN GANDY**

This course will provide strategies and practices to help leaders understand the complexities of organizational culture, including how to create, discover, and form/transform their organizational culture. Attention will be given to best practices for practical leadership in a variety of organizational contexts and environments.

JUNE 30 - JULY 6, 2026  
**BOSTON**  
FAMILY MISSION TRIP

From June 30 to July 6, families from Austin Baptist Church will have an amazing and unique opportunity to partner with the Arabic Baptist Church of Boston, Massachusetts as they host their annual conference for Arabic-speaking Christians from all over the Northeast.

What we will do:

- Run VBS-style activities and programming for the children of conference attendees, ages birth through 8th grade
- Assist with the media production team for the main adult conference
- Engage with the families, walking alongside them in worship and fellowship

To learn more, come to the **Interest Meeting** in the **Student Ministry Suite on Sunday, February 1st, after the 11:15am service.**

**WHO CAN GO ON THIS MISSION TRIP?**

Everyone! 6th grade and older will serve by leading groups, and younger children can participate in their age level VBS.

**INTEREST MEETING INFO**

February 1st in the Student Ministry Suite (immediately after 11:15am service).

**WHEN CAN I APPLY?**

Applications will open after the meeting. Space is limited, so please let us know quickly that you are interested!

**CONTACT**

**Lynn Wood**  
[lynnw@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:lynnw@austinbaptistchurch.com)



## I Love My Church Sunday: Debt Retirement Celebration

January 18, 2026





# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

Don't miss where God is at work. Several years back, in the span of ten days, we had moved our three girls out of three different colleges in three different cities. We celebrated the college graduation of one of the girls, said goodbye to our Chattanooga church and community, moved three girls for their summer internships and programs. One moved to the rural mountains of East Tennessee, one to downtown Atlanta, Georgia, and one to work at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. We also celebrated an engagement party for our son and his fiancée in Alabama, listed our house, and then soon sold our house to another minister who, just like us, had a boy and three girls. We were completely moved out of our house and into our rental home in Ohio in ten days! Our heads were spinning, but we were joyful and strangely at peace in all these major life changes that happened so quickly. How did all this happen? It started when Anita and I felt a call to Dublin Baptist Church in Dublin, Ohio from our church in Chattanooga. This would mean a big change in our lives as we had served for 12 years in Chattanooga. Our children had completed high school there, and we had watched God work in the lives of the people in our church and community in many ways. We had celebrated births, second births in Christ, graduations and weddings, we had grieved deaths, cleaned up after tornados, and we had connected with people as we studied God's Word together. We had established our lives and ministry there, and our parents were close enough where we could be with them in a couple of hours. So a move to Ohio was a big deal. We wrestled with God back and forth, one day ready to go, one day not ready at all. As we struggled, Anita journaled our decision journey. Family and friends gave us scripture and encouragement along the way, and we began to see some patterns in all of it. We realized God was doing things only God could do. As we intensely sought His guidance through this period of about three months, He kept revealing His plans one step at a time. We listened as best we could. One of the men on the personnel team at DBC asked the question, "Why Dublin?", and I quickly quipped, "Because it's the greatest place on earth, right?" The committee roared with laughter. Sensing later that the question needed a better answer, the pastor in me needed an acronym (since apparently that's the only way God talks to many of us preachers, haha). So, here are the things God was saying to us from the scriptures to answer the question of "Why D.U.B.L.I.N.?"

- Don't miss where I am at work! (John 5:17, 19-20, Phi. 1:6, Eze. 36:26-28,32)
- Understand that My plans always supersede yours! (Isa. 55:8-9, Pro. 19:21)
- Believe that it is for My Glory, the Gospel and your good! (Isa. 48:11, Rom. 1:16-17, 8:28, Jer. 29:7)
- Lean into My Word! (Heb. 4:12, John 14:23,26, Psm. 119:138, Isa. 55:10-11)
- I will show you My immeasurably more! (I Cor. 2:9, Jam. 1:9, Eph. 3:20-21)
- Now is the time and I will do it! (Isa. 14:24)

As Henry Blackaby reminds us in his famous workbook, "Experiencing God," God is always at work. Find where He is at work and join Him in it. Jesus says in John 5:17 (NIV), "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." Even in the most hectic ten days in our lives, we could see God at work! Don't miss it, join Him in it, not just for the work, but mostly for the relationship with Him and His other children who are also at work with Him. There is a strange joy and peace in the craziness when we join Him where He's at work.

By the way, ABC, God was also very clear in His call on our lives to Austin Baptist Church!

Hang in there people! God is glad to be with us! I'm praying for us all!

In His Joy,

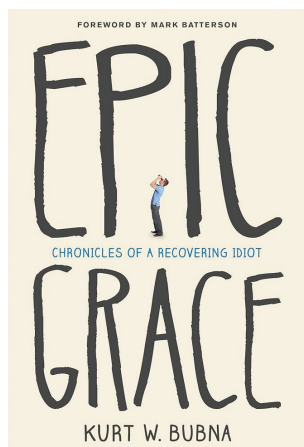
**BILL MCGINNIS**

**PASTOR OF CARE**





# ABC Library



## ***Epic Grace: Chronicles of a Recovering Idiot*** by Kurt W. Bubna

Kurt W. Bubna has been a pastor since 1976. He was the founding and Senior Pastor of Eastpoint Church, a large non-denominational church in Spokane, Washington, where he now serves as the Missions Pastor.

***Epic Grace*** is the first of seven books he has written. Bubna is also a blogger, speaker, coach, certified consultant, and an award-winning photographer. He describes himself as, "...an expert at nothing but grace, and he desires to help others become grace experts as well."

***Epic Grace*** is a partial memoir of Kurt Bubna's life but also a book on Christian living. He uses heartfelt and sometimes humorous stories about the times he has "messed up" in his own life. Bubna also includes stories from the lives of other people he knows and stories from the Bible to illustrate God's grace. The book has twenty-two chapters, and each chapter gives examples of the ways that God gives us His grace. Some of the topics covered are endurance, destiny, wandering, worth, comparisons, restoration, and devotion. Bubna says, "You and I mean everything to God. We are recipients of unmerited, undeserved, and relentless grace." This is a book for new believers and "seasoned" believers. In the foreword, Mark Batterson says, "... it covers a well-known subject, but in it you will find a fresh and insightful perspective on something we cannot know too much about." The magnitude of God's grace seems incomprehensible to us. Reading this book will be a blessing to you and to your understanding of God's amazing, epic grace!

### **CONTACT: Rita Ervin**

Email [library@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:library@austinbaptistchurch.com)

or visit us online at [austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY)

### **LIBRARY HOURS**

**SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM**

**WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:30PM**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/WATCH)

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/BFG)

**ABC PODCASTS:** [austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/PODCASTS)

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

I LOVE MY CHURCH SUNDAY01.18.2026

10:30 AM WORSHIP .....	1,021
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP .....	720

FINANCIAL REPORT01.18.2026

ACCOUNT	JAN. 18, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$72,041.23	\$205,207.31
DESIGNATED	\$6,600.00	\$8,725.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$10,728.41	\$124,919.56
TOTAL GIVING	\$88,919.64	\$338,851.87

## JOIN US SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP!

8:45 AM | Choir-led Worship  
10:00 AM | Bible Fellowship Groups  
11:15 AM | Band-led Worship



# **HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED PRAYER?**

## **CONTACT US!**

### **ABC CHURCH OFFICE**

Call **512.491.9600** or visit **[austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM)**

### **ABC PRAYER TEAM**

Email Bill McGinnis at **[billm@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:billm@austinbaptistchurch.com)**

### **FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Mariah Parker, Director of Communications

- **EMAIL:** **[mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:mariahp@austinbaptistchurch.com)**
- **CALL:** **512.334.8247**

Please submit articles and items for The Bridge by the Friday BEFORE publication.



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